(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken/expected to be taken to post more psychiatrists in the hospitals to provide better care and by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government proposes to re-strategise the National Mental Health Programme in Eleventh Five Year Plan to cover the areas of suicide prevention, stress management, school mental health etc. and also to create infrastructure for production of quality manpower/training of personnel etc. for effective deliver of mental health services.

(c) The shortage of psychiatrists and mental health professional is being addressed in the re-strategised National Mental Health Programme for the Eleventh Five Year Plan by having short-term training for general health care personnel. Also more teaching institutes on the pattern of NIMHANS are being planned at regional level so that adequate number of psychiatrists are available.

Implementation of NACP-III

3479. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP)-III being implemented for halting the spread of HIV/AIDS in the country;

(b) the role envisaged for the elected representatives in the NACP-III; and

(c) the role of other local bodies in the NACP-III?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The National AIDS Control Programme (NACP)-III has been formulated to halt the spread of HIV by up-scaling targeted interventions among the high risk groups, behaviour change communication for improved awareness, expanding preventive care, blood safety, support and treatment of HIV infected persons including the treatment of opportunistic infections, provision of anti-retroviral drugs and maintaining of HIV intervention strategies.

(b) and (c) The role of the elected representatives is to provide leadership in strengthening HIV/AIDS prevention and control programme and create enabling environment free from stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV and AIDS. Like-wise local bodies are also expected to ensure that persons living with HIV/AIDS get access to services, are not stigmatized or discriminated against and help them to cope with their situation by providing a supportive environment.

Complaints against MCI for granting recognition to private medical colleges

3480. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received against the decision of the Medical Council of India regarding grant of recognition to private medical colleges, particularly in respect of the grant of recognition on the basis of false representations about the staff strength, building and equipments in these colleges;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard; and

(c) the remedial measures proposed to streamline the procedure in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Medical Council of India (MCI) carries out inspection of medical colleges as per provisions of Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 and Regulations made thereunder. Representations have been received against MCI in the matter of inspection and its recommendations in regard to grant of permission/recognition of degree. In some cases it has been stated that permission/recognition has been given despite lack of faculty and there are other cases where it has been stated that though the faculty meets the requirements, they are not accepted by MCI for grant of permission/recognition. The Central Government, however, takes decisions on the recommendations of the MCI after obtaining necessary clarifications/inputs from MCI/institutions and if necessary, getting it verified through its team of experts.

In order to ensure that the teachers are submitting correct documents in regard to their qualifications and experience and are not employed in more than one institution, the MCI has introduced a system of Smart I.D. Card for the faculty in which important details like academic qualifications, registration particulars and teaching experience alongwith a thumb print and signature of teacher are embedded in chip of the Card itself. The introduction of this system is likely to ensure correct strength of faculty and their qualifications in their institutions.

Appeal of Health Minister to a famous film personality

3481. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the appeal made by him on smoking to a famous film actor has brought in desire letter;

(b) whether there was any correspondence between him and the actor;

(c) whether he proposes to make any further personalised appeals to more film personalities or to any other rich and famous personalities in the field of art, literature, sports etc. in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Studies suggest that tobacco is a menacing health hazard. Robust IEC activities have been undertaken to disseminate the ill effects of tobacco products. As a part of this campaign renowned personalities including film actors have been advised to desist from smoking in public and in movie since evidence based studies exhibit a strong linkage between film personalities and youth behaviour with youth admitting that they copy smoking styles of different characters/actors in the movies. In fact health message from famous film personalities are a part of the IEC campaign.

It is proposed to sustain these IEC activities in future too as a public health measure.